Vol. VIII. Numb. 69

THE OBSERVATOR.

More Remarks on Sir Ambroſe Crawley's *Advertiſement, in order to be choſen Alderman of* Queen-Hithe-*ward; with the dangerous Conſequences that may attend Corruption in chuſing Magiſtrates for the City, exemplify'd in former Inſtances. On the ingroſſing and foreſtalling of Corn in ſome Country Markets; with the Danger of that Practice, and the Laws againſt it.*

From **Saturday**, September 24. to **Wednesday**, September 28. 1709.

Country-m. I Want ſome more of your Thoughts, Maſter, on Mr. *Midgley*'s Advertiſement, that he had receiv'd 450*l.* to purchaſe Votes for chuſing Sir *Ambroſe Crowley* Alderman of *Queen-Hithe*-ward.

Obſ. The Crime is ſo foul, *Roger*, that a modeſt Man would have been aſham'd to talk of it in private; but to publiſh it to the World in Print, has ſomething in it ſo tranſcendant, that it wants a Name. 'Tis a Diſgrace to the City, and whole Nation, that any Man, or Number of Men, ſhould dare to make ſuch a Propoſal, and ſhews, that Corruption and Bribery is come to a very great Height among us.

Country-m. A great Height indeed, Maſter. I think 'tis Time for the Citizens to look about 'em, and to conſult of proper Meaſures to prevent the growing Miſchief, when ſome of their own Number, and thoſe Men of Note too, publiſh it to the World in Print, that ſo many of 'em are to be influenc'd in their Votes by Treats at Taverns and Ale-houſes. This muſt certainly make our Citizens look very mean, when they are libell'd thus to the Nation, as a Parcel of ſuch abject Wretches, that they will ſell their Birth-right for a Mets of Pottage, a Piece of Bread and Cheeſe, a Bit of a Veniſon-Paſty, a Draught of Ale, a Glaſs of Wine, or a few Coals. This makes them worſe than we Country Folks, Maſter. I know ne'er a Farmer in my Neighbourhood, that would be guilty of ſo baſe a Thing: If any of them ſhould, I am ſure my *Joan* would throw her Diſh-water at his Face, if he came to my Houſe, and he would be pointed at in Church a Sundays.

Obſ. And deſervedly too, *Roger*; for if ſuch Practices go on, the Nation may throw up their *Magna Charta*, and the City her Charter, without putting any future arbitrary Court to the Trouble or Charge of bringing a *Quo Warranto* againſt it. Mr. *Midgley* and Sir *Ambroſe Crowley* have taught them a cheaper Way; for if the Poſt of an Alderman, which is of ſuch Influence and Dignity, and conſtitutes a Man a ſtanding Senator of the nobleſt City in the World, be to be purchas'd at ſo eaſy and baſe a Rate, the Liberties of the City are blown up at once; and ſhe that juſtly values her ſelf as the Queen of Cities, and the nobleſt Emperium of the Univerſe, may ſoon be reduc'd, when any Court pleaſes, to the Condition of a Village. Nor need the Jeſuits incur the Odium again of ſetting her on Fire, if our Citizens once become ſo baſe, as to pull her down with their own Hands.

Country-m. Why truly, Maſter, I am of Opinion, that if ſuch Practices be not hiſs'd out of the City, ſo as never to dare appear there any more, the noble and brave Citizens, of whom God be thank'd there are as many as in any City of the World, who know the Value of Liberty, and have on all Occaſions appear'd gallantly for it, both in the Parliament and Field, ſhould erect another Monument to perpetuate the Infamy of thoſe who have been, or ſhall be guilty of ſuch Attempts upon her Conſtitution; for whatever Opinion they may have of it themſelves, I think it very near akin to the Practice of thoſe Incendiaries who firſt put Fire to the City in the Place where the Monument ſtands; ſo that if thoſe baſe and unmanly Practices be not look'd out of Countenance, I would have ſuch a Monument erected at *Queen-Hithe*, Maſter, with the Names of the Criminals upon it, *viz.* ſuch a Man aim'd at ſubverting the Liberty of Elections, by treating the Electors with Bread and Cheeſe; ſuch an one attempted it with Wine, Ale, and Veniſon-Paſties; another by giving Coals, Clocks, or Dyals to the Wards, witneſs Sir -----; ſuch an one, Mr. ſuch an one, and Mr. ſuch an one; and that this Column is erected at the Charge of the honeſt Citizens, to expoſe ſuch villanous Practices, and to prevent the like for the future, leſt the Charter of the City ſhould be again betray'd, and ſuch Men choſen for Lord-Mayors, Aldermen, and Sheriffs, and Common-Council-men, as at the Pleaſure of an arbitrary Court, found their Fellow Citizens, who ſtood for their Freedom, guilty of Riots, who put up the Head of Alderman *Corniſh* on *Guildhall*, while they treated the Pope's Nuncio there, who ſuffer'd Popiſh Chappels to be ſet up in *Lime-Street*, while they pull'd down the Meetings of Proteſtant Diſſenters; and not having Room enough in their ordinary Priſons, ſhut up the beſt Citizens in the common Halls, to prevent their Concurrence to pull down Popery and Tyranny, while a Popiſh Governor was plac'd in the *Tower*, and mounted his Ordnance to batter down the City of *London*, if they did not receive the Mark of the Beaſt on their Foreheads, or attempted to reſcue impriſon'd Proteſtant Biſhops, who were laid up there for Faggots, in order to rekindle *Smithfield* Flames, and while a Cittadel was to have been built in the *Mews*, to bring *Weſtminſter* to the like filial Obedience to Mother Church.

Obſ. Hold, hold, *Roger*, they will ſay thou'rt gone mad, that thy Head is turn'd with the Fumes of *October*, and that *Joan* muſt go more to the Well, and leſs to the Malt-Sack.

Country-m. I don't care what they ſay, Maſter; every dutiful Child ought to cry out for Help, when they ſee their Mother in Danger of a Rape, or a Knife at their Father's Throat. The Influence of *London* is ſo great over the whole Iſland, and the Preſervation of her Liberty of ſuch Conſequence for the Security of the Queen's Perſon, and Government, and of the Proteſtant Succeſſion, that all Attempts upon it, ought to be expos'd, and obviated. I am ſure, Maſter, if Treats and Coals will do the Work, and carry the Elections of our Magiſtrates, and Members of Parliament, the *French* King, and Court of St. *Germains*, might think it worth their while to lodge as much Money in the Hands of Mr. *M*---, or any Body elſe, who love to be employ'd that Way, as will buy up all the Bread in Town, all the Cheeſe in *Cheſhire*, and *Suffolk*, all the Venſon in St. *James*'s, *Greenwich*, and *Windſor* Parks; all the Stout in our Brew-houſes; all the *French* Wine in our Vintners Cellars, all the Coals that comes from *Newcaſtle* in a Twelve-month; and if gawdy Clocks and Dials will pleaſe the Babies, he will, with all his Heart, ſend us thoſe of *Lions* and *Strasbourgh*. Nay, Maſter, I am confident, rather than ſo good a Deſign ſhould

ſhould miſcarry, the Pope would rob his St. *Peter's*, to adorn our St. *Paul's*.

Clo. Enough, enough, *Roger*; I doubt not but this ſcandalous Practice has become ſo much the Object of every honeſt Citizen's Hatred, that henceforward they will take Care to chuſe Men for Magiſtrates, who have the Qualifications that the divine Legiſlator requires in them, *viz. That they be Men fearing God, and hating Covetouſneſs*, as they would avoid the Calamities they have ſuffer'd, except they would have a mind to ſee the Heads of their *Corniſhes* again at *Guildhall*, for the Entertainment of the Pretender and his Nuncio's, and their *Bethels*, *Filkingtons*, *Shutes*, *Hays*, and other Patriots expos'd to the ſame Danger.

Country-m. Well, Maſter, ſince you'll let me talk no more on this Subject, I'll entertain you with another: We have got ſome of *Hatto*, the Arch-biſhop of *Mentz*'s Diſciples among us, who are for engroſſing all the Corn, and ſtarving the Poor, they buy it up by Wholeſale at Country-Markets as ſoon as the Bell is rung, though I ſuppoſe they bargain'd for it before-hand, and ſome of 'em have been mob'd for their Pains. I am ſure, Maſter, I would ſooner drub ſuch Fellows with my oaken Towel, than ſuffer 'em to touch a Sack of mine.

Clo. I am ſorry to hear of ſuch Things, *Roger*, but don't love mobbing; Puniſhment of the Magiſtrate's Buſineſs and we have very good Laws for that End; but if thoſe Men will be ſo impudent as to fly in the Face of them, and our Juſtices of Peace, and Magiſtrates of Towns take no more Care of their Markets, it will be impoſſible to prevent ſuch Diſorders. Hunger will eat thro' Stone-walls, and break thro' all Rules. We had as good have no Markets at all, if a few Men ſhall be ſuffer'd to engroſs all the Corn that's brought thither: The *French* King will think his Money very well laid out, if he can reduce our Poor to the ſame miſerable and mutinous Condition with his own: And if our ſcurvy Woolers, and other Smugglers, can ſteal it away from us to ſupply his Wants, he will reward them well for their Pains. Therefore, I doubt not, *Roger*, but the Government, upon a due Repreſentation of thoſe Abuſes, will take Care to prevent them, and to regulate the Exportation of Corn according to Law. 'Tis neceſſary that our Army, who have ſo bravely fought in Defence of our Liberty, ſhould have Bread; but that will not juſtify ſuch foreſtalling Practices as you talk of, and we ought to take Care, leſt under Pretence of ſupplying our Troops, ill Men ſhould get a Handle to ſupply our Enemies, and ſtarve our own Poor, whoſe Number is great, and their Condition, God knows, very miſerable. 'Tis Pity that Methods are not taken to prevent hoarding up and engroſſing of Corn, and that there ſhould not be publick Granaries in every County for ſtoring up Corn in Years of Plenty, to keep down the Price of it in Years of Scarcity, according to *Joſeph*'s commendable Practice, by which he ſav'd *Egypt* in a Time of Famine, as well as the Founders of the *Iſraelitiſh* Nation; but this muſt be the Work of our Legiſlators, and certainly deſerves their Care, as they are the common Parents and Guardians of the People. In the mean Time, *Roger*, let ſuch Foreſtallers, Hoarders, and Ingroſſers know, that they make themſelves liable to the Curſe of God and of the poor People, whoſe Cries he will hear, and puniſh thoſe Oppreſſors with his Judgments, if they eſcape the Fury of the ſtarving Populace: And as they are guilty of *Hatto*'s Practice, let them beware of his Puniſhment, that they be not eat up by Rats, as Hiſtorians ſay he was, for chuſing rather to let thoſe Vermin conſume his Granaries, than to ſupply the Poor from them.

Country-m. Pray, Maſter, for the Satisfaction and Information of the poor People, give a Hint at ſome of the Laws relating to this Matter.

Clo. With all my Heart, *Roger*. By the 15th of *Car.* 2. Cap. 7. there's an Allowance to tranſport Corn, when the Quarter of Wheat, *Wincheſter*-Meaſure, is 48 *s.* Barley, Malt, and Buckwheat, 28 *s.* Oats, 13 *s.* 4 *d.* Rye, 32 *s.* and Peaſe and Beans, 30 *s.* and by the 3d of *Car.* 1. Cap. 4. the King or Queen may, by their Proclamation, reſtrain the Tranſportation of Corn upon ſuch Penalties as former Statutes in theſe Caſes have enjoin'd; ſo that if there be ſuch Abuſes committed in that Matter, as ſeveral Letters ſent to us ſay there are, the Aggriev'd may apply to the Government for a Redreſs in a regular and orderly Way. We had Proclamations of that Sort in King *William*'s Time, when our Neighbours in *Scotland* were in great Want; certainly there's much more Reaſon for 'em now to prevent Foreigners and Enemies from being ſupply'd with our Corn, when our own People want it; and conſidering that it is agreed by all Advices, that the Harveſt has been very good in moſt Parts of *Scotland*, thoſe who have a Mind to employ their Money that Way, may find their Account in it, relieve our own Poor, and balk the curſed Deſigns of Regraters and Foreſtallers, who are alſo puniſhable by the 5th of *Ed.* 6. Cap. 14. by two Months Impriſonment for the firſt Offence, ſix for the ſecond, by Pillory and Impriſonment during the Prince's Pleaſure, and the Forfeiture of what they ingroſs, regrate, or foreſtal, for the third; and Juſtices of the Peace may enquire, hear, and determine the Offences aforeſaid.

Advertiſements.

This Day is publiſh'd,

☞ A Collection of miſcellaneous Poems. In twelve Parts. Conſiſting of all Sorts of Poetry, as Odes, Songs, Satyrs, Epiſtles, Elegies, Epigrams, Paſtorals, Dialogues, Prologues, Epilogues, &c. chiefly compos'd by the beſt Hands, viz. Dr. Garth, Dr. Baynard, Dr. King, Dr. Browne, Capt. Phillips, Capt. Steel, Mr. Rowe, Mr. Smith, Mr. Denham, Mr. Gibbon, Mr. Pittis, Mr. Ward, Mr. Dyke, Mr. Green, Mr. Hawke, and ſeveral other Authors of Eminency. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row, and J. Woodward in Threadneedle-Street, near the Royal Exchange.

Juſt publiſh'd,

☞ The Iſland of Content; or, a new Paradiſe diſcover'd. In a Letter from Dr. Merryman of the ſame Country, to Dr. Dullman of Great Britain. By the Author of the Pleaſures of a ſingle Life. Sold by J. Baker at the black Boy in Pater-Noſter-Row. Price 6 d. Where may be had, the Vanity of Upſtarts; or, an honeſt Enquiry into ignoble Greatneſs. An Ode.

☞ The Royal Decoction, or a never-failing Diet-Drink againſt the Venereal Diſeaſe. Its wonderful Efficacy is ſuch, that any Patient may be thereby moſt effectually cur'd, be it of never ſo long ſtanding, and aggravated by ineffectual Salivations, and the Body be cover'd with Scabs, Ulcers, Blotches, and the Legs with Holes, all the Limbs with moſt excruciating Pains, the Palate eaten away, and the Noſe fallen in, &c. This Anti-venereal Decoction eaſes all the Venereal Pains in 8 Days, and in 30 Days perfects the whole Cure, and that without the Uſe of Mercury. The Gentleman, who alone prepares this Decoction, offers to enter into an Engagement, from 100 to 500 Pounds, for the Performance of what he promiſes, if any Patient, tho' diſcourag'd by other Practitioners, will come to his Houſe, he will furniſh them with Neceſſaries, as well as Phyſick, for 8 Days, and if by that time he is not ſatisfy'd that he may be perfectly cur'd, he is free to leave it, without paying any thing for Lodging, Diet, or Phyſick. The Taſte of this Decoction is ſo pleaſant, and the Operation ſo kind to Nature, that big-belly'd Women and Sucklings are daily cur'd with it at all the Seaſons of the Year. The Doctor or his Wife are to be ſpoken with at all ſeaſonable Hours, at the Hand and Urinal, over againſt little Turn-ſtile in high Holborn, (late the D. of Leeds's) N.B. The Bill at large is to be ſeen hanging up in the Royal Exchange, London.

☞ Juſt publiſh'd, ☜

QUACKERY UNMASK'D, being a rational and effectual Anſwer to Mr. Marten's Treatiſe of the Venereal Diſeaſe, its Appendix, (for publiſhing which, as appears by the Gazette of the 30th of July, he now ſtands indicted) and the charitable Surgeon. Sold (Price 1 s. 6 d.) by D. Brown without Temple-Bar, G. Strahan in Cornhill, J. Woodward in St. Chriſtopher's Church-yard, B. Barker in Weſtminſter-Hall, Booksellers; and by the Author, Dr. Spinke, at his Houſe, the Golden Ball in the dark Paſſage, three Doors beyond the Sun Tavern in Honey-Lane Market, Cheapſide. Where alſo may be had, ☞ ANTIVENEREAL-PILLS, &c. (the moſt powerful Medicines for that Diſeaſe yet known) Price 3 s. the Box, with Directions.

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